

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled).

42. (Previously Presented) A pressure support system comprising:
pressure generating means for generating a flow of breathing gas;
controlling means for controlling the operation of the pressure generating means;
housing means for housing the pressure generating means and the controlling
means;
receiving means associated with the housing means for receiving an information
storing means;
information storing means for storing information adapted to be disposed in the
receiving means;
communicating means for communicating information in at least one of (1) a first
direction from the information storing means to the controlling means and (2) a second direction
from the controlling means to the information storing means responsive to the information
storing means being disposed in the receiving means; and
adapter means, sized and configured to be received, at least partially, within the
receiving means, for providing a communication link between the controlling means and an
external device responsive to the adapter means being disposed in the receiving means.

Claims 43-49. (Cancelled).

50. (Previously Presented) A pressure support system comprising:

(a) a pressure support device comprising:

(1) a housing,

(2) a pressure generating system disposed within the housing for generating a flow of breathing gas,

(3) a controller disposed within the housing in communication with the pressure generating system that controls the operation of the pressure generating system,

(4) a slot defined in an exterior surface of the housing, and

(5) a terminal associated with the slot;

(b) an information storage device adapted to be selectively disposed in the slot, the information storage device comprising:

(1) an identification storage area adapted to contain information identifying at least one of (i) information describing the information storage device itself, (ii) information identifying a user to which the information storage device is assigned, and (iii) information identifying the pressure support device assigned for use with the information storage device,

(2) at least one of (i) a first information storage area adapted to contain information for use in controlling an operation of the pressure support device, and (ii) a data storage area adapted to store data written thereon by the pressure support device, wherein the controller communicates with the information storage device via the terminal responsive to the information storage device being disposed in the slot, and wherein the controller is adapted to at least one of (1) read information from the information storage device, and (2) write information to the information storage device via the terminal; and

(c) an adapter adapted to be selectively disposed in the slot, wherein the adapter provides communication access between the controller and an external device responsive to being inserted into the slot.

Claims 51-56. (Cancelled).